

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00635 270940Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6002

S E C R E T CAPE TOWN 0635

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASST SECY SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SF

SUBJ: MEETING WITH PM VORSTER

REF: (A) STATE 092271; (B) STATE 094101

1. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED REFTEL (B) WHICH MAKES NO
REFERENCE TO REFTEL (A) BUT I ASSUME COMPLETELY SUPERCEDES
IT.

2. WHILE I WILL OF COURSE PROCEED WITH INSTRUCTIONS
CONTAINED REFTEL (B), I WOUNDER WHETHER THE TIMING OF
INFORMING VORSTER (TODAY) AND MAKING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(NEXT FRIDAY) HAS BEEN CONSIDERED FROM THE STANDPOINT OF
ITS IMPACT ON THE FIVE-POWER TALKS WITH SAG ON NAMIBIA
WHICH OPEN AT 11:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME TODAY.
IN TELLING VORSTER TODAY THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT IS
PREPARED TO MEET WITH HIM IN MID-MAY WE RISK A
LESSENING OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICANS
WILL TAKE THE URGINGS OF THE CONTACT GROUP (CG). THEY WILL
BE INCLINED TO THINK THAT THEY CAN AFFORD TO WAIT TO TALK TO
THE VICE PRESIDENT. I BELIEVE WE WANT TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO
UNDERMINE THE WORK OF THE CG BY GIVING THE SAG A SIGNAL

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WHICH THEY ARE LIKELY TO MISINTERPRET. IT WOULD BE
PREFERABLE TO HAVE THE FULL WEIGHT OF THE CG PRESENTATION
SINK IN FIRST AND THEN HAVE THE MEETING WITH THE VICE
PRESIDENT TO UNDERSCORE OUR SERIOUSNESS. ANOTHER
CONSEQUENCE WHICH YOU ARE IN BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE
IS HOW OUR EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN FRIENDS ON THE CG WILL
REGARD THE TIMING.

3. WITH THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATION IN MIND, I WONDER
WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL FRIDAY
AFTERNOON, WHEN THE CG TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO BE OVER, TO
INFORM THE PM THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT IS PREPARED TO
MEET HIM AND, ASSUMING HE ACCEPTS, TO HOLD OFF THE PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL MONDAY.

4. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY SHARES THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOVE
ON THE IMPLICATIONS FOR HIS MISSION AND JOINS ME IN THE
SUGGESTION ON CHANGE OF DATE.

5. MY APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN BOTHA THIS AFTERNOON IS
FLEXIBLE SO I SHALL HOLD UP FIXING THE HOUR UNTIL I HEAR
FROM YOU. BOWDLER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, OVIP, US, SF, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES), (MONDALE, WALTER F), (MONDALE, WALTER)
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